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A Territorial Centennial Number

Iowa in 1838

S.R.

The Palimpsest

JULY 1938

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH
Superintendent

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSESTS

In early times palimpsests were parchments or other materials from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY JOHN ELY BRIGGS

VOL. XIX ISSUED IN JULY 1938 NO. 7

The Birthday of the Territory

On the Fourth of July in 1838 the Territory of Iowa was born. Throughout the Black Hawk Purchase the pioneers had made preparations to celebrate on that memorable Wednesday both the birth of their Territory and the sixty-second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Formal exercises dignified the observance of the holiday at Dubuque, Burlington, Fort Madison, West Point, and Denmark, and similar celebrations were probably held in other places between Keokuk and Fort Snelling.

Long before the eventful day, patriotic citizens gathered to appoint committees on arrangements, to choose officers of the day, and to plan a banquet with appropriate toasts. A bad storm caused some delay in the preparations at Dubuque, but the importance of the occasion was not overlooked. "The Anniversary of our National Independence, and the birthday of that Territory in which are our adopted homes," declared the *Iowa News*, "should

enliven us to action, and make us act with a spirit of patriotism."

The observance of the Fourth of July was an important social event in the life of the frontier. It afforded an opportunity for the pioneers to get together and discuss the weather, the prospects for good crops, and the coming land sales. Politicians could display their patriotism and oratorical prowess. Community behavior was an index to the character of the people and the times. The speeches and toasts at the banquets gave composite expression to the hopes and fears, the opinions and prejudices of the pioneers.

Drenching rain early in the morning of July 4th prevented many "country friends" from attending the Dubuque celebration. It was not until 1:30 in the afternoon that the procession marched to the Catholic Church where Stephen Hempstead read the Declaration of Independence and James Churchman delivered the Oration. After singing several national songs, the procession reformed and marched to an arbor where 150 persons partook of a "substantial repast".

After dinner thirteen scheduled toasts were drunk amid enthusiastic applause. "The Day We Celebrate" was greeted by the band blaring Hail Columbia. Appropriate music followed each toast: thus Washington's Grand March was

played for "The Heroes and Sages of the Revolution"; Independence March accompanied "The Declaration of Independence"; and the Star Spangled Banner greeted the tribute to the American flag. The stirring strains of Yankee Doodle acclaimed the modest toast, "*The People* — The fountain of truth, whence flows the stream of political honesty".

The last four regular toasts dealt with matters closer to hearth and home. "The new Territory of Iowa" was accompanied by a timely sentiment: "May the high-toned honor and patriotism of her citizens command the highest respect abroad and cherish the most social feeling at home." Having been closely associated with Wisconsin, the citizens of Dubuque did not forget to toast "Our Sister Territory". A political barb can be detected in the toast to "The Press", for its attendant sentiment, "Free, fearless, and independent — watchful sentinels were a few base webs removed", was apparently aimed at partisan editors. The thirteenth toast honored "The Fair of Iowa — May they all be bless'd with matrimonial felicity; kind, warm hearted souls, God bless them." As the band bravely struck up Haste to the Wedding, a lump must have formed in the throat of many a lonely bachelor, for women were scarcest in the mineral region.

The first in a series of seventeen volunteer toasts was proposed by Dr. Stephen Langworthy to the new Territory "just rising in the political horizon of the west." Patrick Quigley quaffed his sentiments to the national Democratic Administration which, in his opinion, received its support from "honest industry" and was destined to "gloriously triumph in 1840, over Bank monopolists, chartered swindlers, speculating legislators, and judicial knaves." Next followed a toast to the town of Dubuque. The bitter animosity of Dubuque Irishmen for England was reflected in three toasts, and Dennis O'Shea, in proposing the name of "Iowa — The beautiful and fertile land of my adoption", could not forget "Old Erin — The land of my nativity." The Panic of 1837 was not forgotten by Chauncey Swan who hoped the pioneer would "have a head to plan, a heart to persevere, and an arm to bring him out" of economic adversity. Five drinks later Swan proposed a toast to "The Mercantile Aristocracy of Du Buque — May they never triumph over the working Democracy of Miners."

Burlington celebrated the birthday of the Territory in a "handsome style". James W. Grimes read the Declaration of Independence, David Rorer delivered the Oration, and Charles Mason served as Marshal. Judge David Irvin presided

at the "sumptuous repast" prepared by Mrs. Parrott of the Wisconsin Hotel. After the cloth had been removed and the ladies had retired, Cyrus S. Jacobs addressed the meeting. Eighteen regular toasts were proposed, each followed by music appropriate to the sentiment. The first eleven toasts commemorated the Fourth of July, George Washington, the Union, the President of the United States, the American flag, the Federal Government, the Chief Executive, the Congress of the United States, the Supreme Court, the Navy, and the Army. The remainder of the program was concerned with subjects nearer to the pioneers of 1838: Wisconsin Territory, Governor Henry Dodge, the Mississippi River, the town of Burlington, the squatters in the Black Hawk Purchase, and the fairer sex. When a toast was given to the "Territory of Iowa", the band struck up She Is All My Fancy Painted Her.

Twenty-eight volunteer toasts followed, three-fourths of which related to local affairs. Sickness prevented John B. Newhall from appearing, but his toast to Washington, Franklin, and Warren was read and warmly applauded. Six other toasts dealt with the national scene. Eight pioneers rose to honor the newly-born Territory of Iowa. John Lorton hoped the Territory would "bloom like the rose"; R. Cook declared her "present prospects

indicate her future greatness"; and Joseph Newhall felt that the "unrivalled beauty and expanding charms" of "Uncle Sam's youngest daughter" gave promise that she would be "the first to be united in the band of our glorious confederation." J. H. McKenny slyly toasted the "Fair of Iowa" who, unlike the Territories of Iowa and Wisconsin, seemed "better satisfied with union".

In contrast to the Dubuque toasts on Ireland and the lead miners, the citizens of Burlington rose five times to honor the farmers. G. W. Kelly described the sturdy sons of the soil as "brave and meritorious"; Reuben Chance praised their "industrious, enterprizing and patriotic" nature and trusted they would "ever look out for snakes". W. W. Chapman saw Iowa farmers "united in defence of their homes", while G. W. Willhite expressed a similar thought when he proposed, "May union prevail, in time of land sale." Israel Robertson struck a prophetic note when he declared: "Iowa Farmers — If poor in purse, rich in spirit — the bone and sinew of the Territory, and powerful in the political field." John R. Woods trusted that the farmers of Iowa would "live to see this our delightful country, made by their hardships and dangers, the brightest star that graces the flag of our confederacy."

In Fort Madison the citizens met in Jacob Cut-

ler's new building at the ringing of the bell to celebrate Independence Day. Henry Eno read the Declaration of Independence and Philip Viele delivered the Oration before a large and attentive audience. "It was a chaste piece of composition," the Fort Madison *Patriot* declared, "containing a brief historical sketch of the settlement and progress of this country — the character of the founders of the republic — their zeal and perseverance in establishing institutions of learning and religion — and an urgent appeal to the citizens of IOWA to imitate the example of such fathers".

At three o'clock a large number sat down to dinner in an arbor, prepared for the occasion on the bank of the Mississippi. Chief Black Hawk was present, "decently clothed in citizen's dress." After the cloth was removed and the ladies had retired, thirteen formal toasts were drunk, mostly in cold water. Nine hearty cheers broke forth upon the reading of the fifth toast: "Iowa, this day taking its rank as a Territory. Soon may its star shine bright on the azure of our National Banner." Next came a toast to the Constitution — "framed by our Sires, their sons will sustain it."

Personal and local sentiments were usually more warmly applauded than those referring to the nation. Thus, a toast to the "hardy, brave, generous and hospitable" pioneers evoked nine

lusty cheers whereas the Army and Navy elicited only three. As the customary climax, the final prepared toast was to the ladies — "the prettiest flowers that bloom on our beautiful prairies". When the program reached the informal phase, James G. Edwards volunteered a toast to "Our Illustrious Guest, Black Hawk", whereupon the old chief responded in person, saying he was glad to eat with his white friends and to be at peace, though he could not forget that he was once a great warrior.

Six hundred friends of "civil and religious liberty" gathered at West Point in Lee County to celebrate Independence Day. The American flag was hoisted before sunrise and "continued to wave beautifully and triumphantly throughout the day." At noon a large procession formed and marched to a grove where the public exercises began with prayer by the Reverend A. Ewing, who served as chaplain of the day. The Declaration of Independence was then read, after which Eli Stoddard "pronounced the Oration" in an "elegant manner" which gave "universal satisfaction" to all, many saying it surpassed anything "ever heard from the lips of any orator".

A "sumptuous dinner" was served gratuitously, after which the cloth was removed and the usual thirteen scheduled toasts delivered. Twelve vol-

unteer toasts were also drunk — including one to liberty-loving Kentuckians everywhere. Many a bachelor responded enthusiastically to a toast which expressed hope that the girls of West Point would "continue to grow in virtue and intelligence as fast as they grow in size and beauty." A correspondent to the Fort Madison *Patriot* was "happy to state that the moderation and propriety which characterized the proceedings of the day and all who partook in its festivities, were unequaled by that of any celebration of the kind we ever before witnessed. Such was the veneration in which the day was observed, that it might reflect honor upon any community of free and enlightened citizens."

A visitor at Denmark reported that the residents of that Congregational community, believing that their liberties were "more endangered by the use of intoxicating drink than all foreign enemies", had determined to celebrate the Fourth of July by suppressing the liquor traffic. After Asa Turner had opened the meeting with prayer and read the Declaration of Independence, J. P. Stewart of Burlington delivered an address on the evils of intemperance, after which "the total pledge was read, to which fifty-three gave their names and a teetotal temperance society was organized".

Eighty persons sat down to a table "spread

with the bounties of Providence" and served in an "admirable style". After dinner several toasts were volunteered and drunk in cold water. No doubt that arch-enemy of liquor, James G. Edwards, was glad to learn that at the Denmark celebration there was "no need of brandy and wine to aid the tongue or mind on such an occasion." After the temperance society was formed, other abstainers signed the pledge, making "in this infant settlement, eighty-five, who taste not, touch not, handle not, the accursed thing."

Such were the festivities which marked the birth of the Territory on July 4, 1838. There were no firecrackers, no traffic jams, no baseball games. If some people went fishing or raced horses or danced, those methods of celebration were not mentioned in the newspapers. There was, however, a general feeling of reverence for the founding fathers and gratitude for the institutions that they had established. The observance of the day was also characterized by an abiding self-confidence among the pioneers in their own ability as architects and builders of a mighty commonwealth west of the Mississippi. The Fourth of July a hundred years ago was cherished as the occasion for sober contemplation of great political achievements and a splendid destiny.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

The Man Who Would Be Governor

"Our Secretary, Wm. B. Conway, Esq. arrived at this place last evening", announced the Burlington *Gazette* on July 21, 1838. "He brings no news with regard to the Governor — in the absence of whom, the executive duties will devolve upon him." William B. Conway was enthusiastic over the importance of his office — as Secretary of the Territory of Iowa he was just one step from being Governor.

Inexperienced in governmental responsibilities, Conway had gained his position because of a political obligation. When he stepped from the steamboat *Ariel* at Burlington he was forty years of age, energetic, confident, and familiar with the newspaper business. Through the years of the ascendency of Andrew Jackson and his follower, Martin Van Buren, Conway was an ardent supporter of the Democratic party. He expressed his political opinions for two or three years in the editorial columns of the Pittsburgh *American Manufacturer*. Later he went to Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, where he published the *Cambria Mountaineer*. His "rabid, violent, partisan" editorials, which T. S. Parvin said were "quite in accord with

many of the personal traits of the editor", were appearing in this paper when the Senate, on June 13, 1838, confirmed his nomination as Secretary of the Territory of Iowa.

Conway was a character of contradictions. He was loyal to his allies and bitter toward his enemies. Irish and Catholic, he formed a close friendship with Antoine Le Claire; vituperative and aggressive, he provoked the animosity and contempt of the vigorous and assertive Robert Lucas. Small and wiry in stature, he was big in action. In speech and in writing he employed a verbose sarcasm. The Democratic *Iowa News,* referring to his editorial ability, stated before he came to Iowa that it was a capacity in which Conway had "gained the esteem of all his fellow-laborers, and proved himself a gentleman of fine talents, possessed of knowledge well fitting him for the transaction of public business." The Secretary appears to have had a strange combination of dynamic will, talent, and dogmatic conviction.

In the organic act was the provision that "in case of the death, removal, resignation, or necessary absence of the Governor from the Territory, the Secretary shall have, and he is hereby authorized and required to execute and perform all the powers and duties of the Governor during such vacancy or necessary absence, or until another

Governor shall be duly appointed to fill such vacancy." Did this mean that the Secretary was Acting Governor during the interval before Governor Lucas came to Iowa? Conway thought that it did.

Nearly three weeks elapsed between the day when Iowa became a separate Territory and the arrival of the Secretary. Meanwhile, no evil consequences had ensued and no immediate emergency was anticipated. Apparently, however, the Secretary of State, John Forsyth, had urged Conway to be in the Territory by July 3rd in order to launch the new Territorial government. These circumstances, together with the implications of the organic act, led Conway to believe that he ought to assume immediately some of the official duties properly belonging to the Governor. Ambitious, if not prudent, the Secretary set the wheels of government in motion.

Almost at once, the first official acts of "Acting Governor" Conway raised the question whether he was performing his duties circumspectly. One of the functions to which the Secretary turned his attention was the partitioning of the Territory into judicial districts. Following a meeting of the members of the Burlington bar, which probably urged the aspiring Secretary to act at once, the "acting governor of Iowa, for the time being", on

July 25th established the judicial districts, assigned the judges, and posted the dates when court would convene in each seat of justice. This action seems to be a curious paradox: on the same day he issued the proclamation, Conway wrote to Governor Lucas of his "daily expected" arrival; and, furthermore, the first court was not to convene until the second Monday in September. The Burlington *Gazette* informed its readers on July 28th that "This act (conceded by all to be of pressing necessity) is, we understand, the only executive duty the Secretary designs to discharge for the present." The Acting Governor may have been influenced by the enthusiasm to get things started; he may have been subject to political pressure. Perhaps Conway acted too hastily.

Simultaneously with his first official pronouncement, Conway fanned the flames of local prejudices and sectional pride. He toyed with the idea of fixing the place of meeting for the first legislature. Burlington, the former capital of Wisconsin Territory, was assumed to be the desirable location, but Secretary Conway's visit to Davenport started a rumor that the time-being Governor would convene the legislature in the Scott County town. The *Iowa Territorial Gazette* on August 11th reported to its readers that the "Secretary, we are sure, is desirous, if he acts at all in the mat-

ter, to carry out the wishes of the people generally. When we last saw him, he expressed every disposition to this end; and we have not the slightest doubt, that when he gives the whole matter the attention and investigation which it demands, he will act promptly and correctly." Conway later asserted that he never had any intention of fixing the meeting place of the legislature. He did, however, select Davenport for his own home.

Until the arrival of Lucas on August 15th, Secretary Conway continued to act in a gubernatorial capacity. He had commenced negotiations for a commissioner to aid in the establishment of the southern boundary of Iowa. And on the day Robert Lucas arrived Conway was ready to define the representative districts and call an election. The coming of the Governor, however, made further activity unnecessary and Conway left immediately for Davenport.

Robert Lucas, a man of firm convictions and experience in politics, took exception to the activity of the Secretary during the days preceding his arrival. The proclamations of Conway opened a breach that never healed. T. S. Parvin, the private secretary of Lucas, later wrote that the Governor "became very indignant, declaring that 'all the acts of the Secretary, as Acting Governor were null and void, inasmuch as *no vacancy had been*

created,' either by his death or absence, as he had not yet entered upon the discharge of his official duties." However, the acts of the Secretary were not rescinded and Lucas began where Conway left off.

Through the first Territorial year the antagonism between Lucas and Conway continued. In this clash of personalities, Lucas spoke contemptuously of the Secretary while Conway in his letters often wrote Parvin (a close friend of Lucas) with a small p. At a public dinner given in honor of Governor Lucas — a festivity attended by the Territorial dignitaries — Conway was either not present or did not offer a volunteer toast. Indifference was one of the Secretary's methods of showing his disdain.

In a letter of November 17th Conway wrote that "To advise with the Executive, in all matters relating to the public interests, is esteemed by me as a pleasing duty, and whilst I would preserve all proper distinctions between our respective functions and responsibilities, it will always afford me great satisfaction to be able to concur in what he may deem it his province to suggest and recommend." Insistence upon the independence and importance of his own "Department", however, involved Conway in quarrels with both the Governor and the first Territorial Assembly.

To furnish supplies for the new government was one of the Secretary's duties. Impatience on the part of the legislature, a stinging letter, and the Governor's intervention embroiled the chief officials in the "penknife quarrel". When Conway joined forces with the legislature against the Governor, Parvin wrote in his diary that the Secretary had "come out and shown that he is not the true blue". Justice Thomas S. Wilson finally mediated the controversy but only after the Secretary had succeeded in arousing the ire of the Governor and his friends.

Both Lucas and Conway were to blame. The Governor was easily irked, while Conway found it difficult to subordinate his ambitions to the authority of his superior. On occasion Conway was indolent. For example, he apparently never kept an Executive Journal but left the task to the Governor. At the same time, Lucas often considered the actions of his expansive associate "as an offensive usurpation of authority". The Governor, on the other hand, was occasionally regarded by his compatriots as contentious and bigoted.

That Conway was a man of talent was seldom questioned. At the first term of court, twenty attorneys (one for approximately each thousand inhabitants in Iowa) were admitted to the bar and prominent among the names was that of William

B. Conway. They were admitted by Chief Justice Mason who himself had taken the oath of office (on July 23rd) before the Territorial Secretary. Besides being read in the law, Conway was acquainted with the literature of other fields. Parvin on Christmas Day, 1838, wrote in his diary that he had "Read Philosophy of living. Nibuhr. Burke & Beecher on Intemperance", which he had borrowed from the library of the Secretary. Parvin later referred to Conway as "the scholar and the poet" and also as the "Iowa Minstrel". The Secretary evidently possessed literary skill and a succulent wit that won recognition throughout the Territory. A poem by Conway entitled "The Couch of Sickness" appeared in the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* on November 24, 1838.

The design of the Territorial Seal is a historical exhibit of the Secretary's ability. On November 22, 1838, the Council passed a resolution that "the Secretary of the Territory of Iowa, be and is hereby requested to transmit to this Council, the Great Seal of this Territory, with its impression, for inspection". Thereupon, the Secretary transmitted a wax imprint of the seal to the Council. With his usual verbosity, Conway also wrote a description of his design. "The slightest examination of the seal will disclose to the Honorable Council the Eagle, the proud and appropriate emblem of our

national power, bearing in its beak, an *Indian arrow*, and clutching, in its talons, an *unstrung bow*, and while the idea thus delicately evolved, is so well calculated, to make the eyes glisten with patriotic pride, and cause the heart to beat high with the pulsations of conscious superiority, it nevertheless presents a touching appeal to our manly sensibilities, in contemplating the dreary destiny of a declining race; nor should it fail to admonish us of the immense importance of improving, in every possible point of view, that vast inheritance which it is their peculiar misfortune to undervalue and neglect."

Speaking of the design, T. S. Parvin years later related that when the seal arrived from the hands of William Wagner, of York, Pennsylvania, the engraver, "Secretary Conway brought it to the Governor's office to show it, and how pleased we all were at the appropriateness of the design and the *poetical* description the Secretary had written of it". The emblem served through Territorial days until it was replaced by the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. The designs upon the other Territorial seals (Supreme Court, District Courts, Commissioner's Court, and Probate Courts) were all devised by the Secretary and "were all as appropriate in their several spheres as that of the 'Great' Seal of the Territory". Conway wrote to

the engraver on September 2, 1839: "You will endeavor to have *all* the seals ready about the middle of next March, at which time, I will, if alive and in my present station make you a visit for the purpose of examining and I trust, approving the seals."

During the fall of 1838, several men gathered at the rooms of Governor Lucas in the Burlington House. Among the company present besides Lucas were: William B. Conway, Ver Planck Van Antwerp, Jesse Williams, Joseph Williams, J. G. Edwards, and T. S. Parvin. The conversation turned to the application of the name "Badger" to Wisconsin, and immediately the question of proposing a nickname for Iowa was raised. After various sobriquets were mentioned some one proposed "Hawkeye" and all agreed upon its appropriateness. The suggestion was perpetuated when "Old Hawke" Edwards changed the name of his newspaper to the Burlington *Hawk-Eye*. Thus, Secretary Conway was associated with the origination of two of Iowa's most cherished symbols — the nickname Hawkeye and the Territorial seal which has been handed down through history by the State University and the State Historical Society.

Through the spring and summer months of 1839 the Secretary spent most of his time in Davenport.

The Territorial government was running smoothly. When the legislature was not in session there was little to do. Main issues had been settled and the enthusiasm for a new task had worn off. The only controversial diversion was an epistolary combat conducted in the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* during February, 1839. Conway defended the position he had taken against the Governor while the first legislature was in session. During the opening days of the second session of the Territorial Assembly in the fall of 1839, the brief career of Secretary Conway was abruptly closed by death.

On November 6, 1839, Parvin recorded in his diary: "Wm. B. Conway Secy. of the Terry. died of congestive fever". The *Iowa Territorial Gazette* on November 9, 1839, reported that the "Territory has thus been deprived of one of its most important officers, literature has lost an ardent votary, and his wife and child their only protector." Commenting upon his character, Editor Clarke wrote, "He gathered no riches about him; he became not conspicuous by the force of affluence; but his success in life was derived from another source — a source we all respect and admire — the power of intellect. He died, leaving behind him the enviable reputation of a man of letters."

Both houses of the legislature resolved to wear the appropriate badges of mourning. On November 9th a public meeting was held in Davenport which drew up a series of articles with respect to the deceased Secretary and condolences were sent to Mrs. Conway. Accompanied by a committee of the legislature, the body of the Secretary was taken from Burlington to Davenport where it was buried from the newly erected St. Anthony's Church. Father Pelamourgues performed the services. The fourth registry of the death roll reads: "On the 9th of November, 1839, was buried William B. Conway, Secretary of the Iowa Territory who died in Burlington of the billious fever; aged 41."

Conway was like a passing storm in the early years of the Territorial government. He came to Iowa unknown. He caused a momentary political tempest. And when he had passed, the ascendency of Robert Lucas was unclouded.

To fill the vacancy caused by Conway's death the legislature directed Charles Weston, the Territorial fiscal agent, to assume the duties of the Secretary until President Van Buren could make a new appointment. A ready and willing successor, however, was available. James Clarke, editor of the *Iowa Territorial Gazette*, on July 22, 1839, had written to his father of Conway's conduct. "Every

Democrat of influence in the Territory is out against him and they will ask of the President his removal. The agents of the general government who are known to and have influence with the President, viz., the Governor, three Supreme Judges, four Land Officers and Marshal, have determined, I understand, to petition for his removal, and at the same time ask that I may be appointed in his stead." And late that same year, on November 23, 1839, James Clarke was appointed by President Van Buren to the position of Secretary. Six more years and Clarke achieved the dream of Conway (a Secretary who would be Governor) when he succeeded John Chambers and became the third Chief Executive of the Territory of Iowa.

JACK T. JOHNSON

The Geography of Iowa Territory

"Iowa Territory! What an euphonious name!" exclaimed the Burlington editor when the "glorious" news arrived that the Territory of Wisconsin had been divided and that the Territory of Iowa would come into being on July 4, 1838. "We are now the Territory of *Iowa*", he continued, "an independent Territory — of a salubrious climate — fertile soil, industrious and rapidly increasing population, and of such geographical dimensions as will admit of our public functionaries fully and justly administering the laws and thereby fully securing the rights of the people — This is a great event, and great will be the consequences."

The act of Congress directed attention to geographical conditions. Area, climate, and resources were subjects of comment. "We behold the young Territory of Iowa," wrote the editor of the *Iowa News*, with a population of more than twenty-three thousand, acquired "within the short space of five years from the date of her purchase from the Indians, with thriving villages scattered all over her fertile prairies, and within two years from her first organization as a component part of the Territory of Wisconsin."

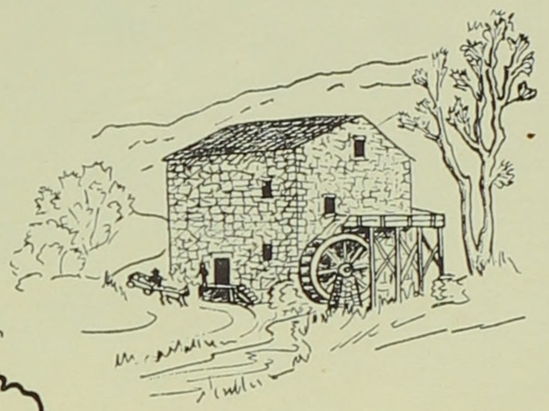
Although confined to a region west of the Mississippi River, the Territory of Iowa was nevertheless a wilderness empire of far-flung bounds. From Lake Itasca to the mouth of the Des Moines River, the Father of Waters flowed almost half its length (1100 miles) along the eastern border. From Itasca the eastern boundary extended northward to the pine-clad western reaches of the Lake of the Woods and intersected the forty-ninth parallel. On the north this vast domain was bounded by Canada for a distance of approximately three hundred and fifty miles between the Lake of the Woods and a point due north of the source of the White Earth River on the west. Except for a few miles, the western boundary was formed by the White Earth River and the muddy Missouri as it coursed for more than a thousand miles through the buffalo country to the northern boundary of the State of Missouri which formed the southern boundary of the Territory of Iowa.

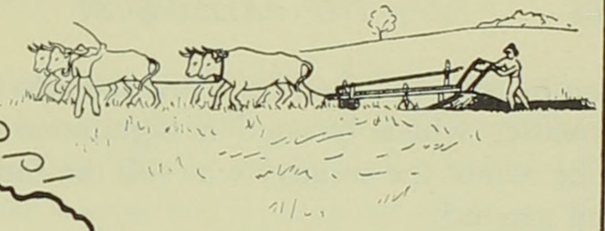
The Territory of Iowa contained an area of nearly 200,000 square miles — larger than any State in the Union except Texas. Embraced in the arms of two mighty rivers, the vast region of prairie, plain, and forest land in the heart of the continent possessed fabulous resources. Only about 10,850 square miles of the Territory were open for settlement in 1838. This tract in the

The Territory of Iowa 1838

Scale of Miles

0 35 70 105





Devils Lake
Red Lakes
Lake Winnibigoshish
Lake Itasca
Leech Lake
Cheyenne River
Red River
James River
Missouri River
Big Sioux River
Floyd River
Little Sioux R.
Boyer River
Raccoon River
Minnesota River
Mississippi River
Lake Pepin
Fort Snelling
Pike's Purchase
Upper Iowa R.
Turkey R.
Prairie Laporte
Peru
Dubuque
Maquoketa R.
Bellevue
Wapsipinicon River
Cedar River
Iowa River
Comanche
Davenport
Rockingham
Buffalo
Bloomington
Wapello
Mt. Pleasant
Skunk River
Des Moines River
Indian Cession Line 1837
Jalem
Denmark
West Point
Burlington
Augusta
Ft. Madison
Farmington
Montrose
Keokuk
Neutral Ground

S. Briggs

southeast corner had been divided into twenty-one counties which boasted a population of 22,819. The rest of the country was still the Indians' hunting ground.

The Sauks and Foxes had moved their villages west of the Black Hawk Purchase. A few Ioways still camped on the Nodaway, and the Potawatomi were filtering into southwestern Iowa. The Winnebago were straggling unwillingly from Wisconsin into the Neutral Ground, a forty-mile-wide strip which bounded the Black Hawk Purchase on the north and extended in a southwesterly direction to the Des Moines River. North of them roamed the warlike Sioux.

The Indians were a constant source of worry to the pioneers. The special session of the Wisconsin legislature in June, 1838, sent a memorial to the United States Senate explaining the necessity of ratifying the treaties made with the Sioux, the Winnebago, and the Chippewa in 1837. Robert Lucas, in his first message to the Iowa legislature on November 12, 1838, recommended that the militia of the Territory "be divided into three divisions, six brigades, and twelve regiments" with a company of Rangers to each regiment. The Rangers, mounted and armed with rifles, rifle pistols, and short swords, were expected to be "most efficient" in Indian fighting. "I am satisfied", Lucas

told the legislature, "that troops thus organized, equipped *and disciplined, expressly for Indian fighting,* WITH STRICT DIRECTIONS NEVER TO THROW AWAY A FIRE, *nor to halt in pursuit,* first using their *rifles,* then *their pistols,* and as the last resort, their *swords,* would be more than an equal match for an equal number of the most efficient Indian warriors that ever assembled upon our frontier."

Andrew Logan, editor of the Davenport *Iowa Sun,* was delighted with the "many handsome and promising towns" located along the Mississippi and in the interior. Fort Madison occupied a "beautiful and commanding position" and was "progressing under the direction of well cultivated judgment and taste." The high character and energy of the citizens of Burlington, in his opinion, had made an enterprising place of the capital of the Territory, despite the "peculiar disadvantages" of its location. Logan believed any place above Muscatine Slough would be "unquestionably healthy". Dubuque was a "prosperous, healthy and public-spirited town" whose prospects were "extending on a highly flattering scale". The mineral wealth and agricultural resources of the Dubuque area were destined to make that city a "great trading town". With pardonable pride, the enthusiastic editor described Davenport's location

as "beyond all comparison" the most beautiful. "The interior of the territory is all rich, beautiful and productive, from end to end," he asserted. "Sober and industrious farmers may flock in from all quarters, and find a rich reward for pleasant and moderate toil. The interior of the territory is healthy, and every section of land admits of easy cultivation."

The Fort Madison *Patriot* prophesied that Iowa would soon be "knocking at the doors of Congress to be admitted into the Union." Many immigrants were settling along the Skunk River, which the *Patriot* felt was a "beautiful stream deserving a better name".

The Dubuque *Iowa News* welcomed the arrival of thirty or forty Scotch families on the Maquoketa from the Selkirk colony on the Red River of the North." "Their trip was truly a tedious one, coming as they did across the uninhabited country, without roads, and in small carts drawn by oxen." They saw few Indians on the long journey and were not molested.

Dr. Isaac Galland, who had lived in Iowa since 1829, praised the fertile Des Moines Valley. The "swift and shallow" water of the "transparent" Des Moines abounded in fish, he declared. Springs of excellent water were "found in great profusion along its shores". The bottom lands

are not very extensive, except in some places, but, Galland explained, "they are of a rich alluvial soil, covered generally with a heavy growth of forest trees, such as black and white walnut, hackberry, sugar tree, cherry, locust, mulberry, coffee nut, some buckeye, and all the varieties of oak".

J. N. Nicollet, the eminent French explorer and mathematician, journeyed far up the Missouri River in 1838. He found the swift current of the Missouri and the constant shifting of its sand-bars the "principal and most insurmountable" obstacle to navigation. The elevation of the Missouri above the Gulf of Mexico, according to Nicollet, was double that of the Mississippi. He estimated the altitude of Council Bluffs at 1,023 feet and that of Davenport at 528. Although Fort Pierre on the Missouri was in the same latitude as the lower end of Lake Pepin on the Mississippi, the former was 1,456 feet above sea level while the latter was but 710 feet. "These numerical relations", explained the observant explorer, account for the swifter current of the Missouri and "establish the fact, that the average level of the Missouri valley above the ocean is nearly twice more elevated than that of the Mississippi."

Nicollet found the vegetation of the Missouri and Mississippi valleys less abundant north of the Platte River on the west and Rock Island on the

east. Groves were smaller and the fringes of timber along the streams were narrower. Horse briar, fox and false grapes, gray dogwood, currants, and gooseberries were common undergrowth. "In the higher situations, and at the head of creeks," Nicollet noticed "the black walnut and mulberry, basswood, nettle-wood, intermingled with the common hawthorn, prickly ash, &c. On the high grassy or rocky banks, the black and bur oaks constitute the principal growth, but occasionally intermixed with the wild cherry, red cedar, hornbean, wild roses, and sumach. The low prairies bordering the rivers have a deep, fertile soil, and abound with sedge-grasses and leguminous plants."

Many conflicting reports about the climate were published. The editor of the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* was delighted with the weather at Burlington. "The climate of this extensive region", he declared on October 6, 1838, "is perhaps as propitious to health, as that of any country in the world. Its remoteness from the ocean secures it from those insalubrious winds which bring with them such a host of pulmonary disorders on the northern seaboard, while its high and dry soil and pure atmosphere, preserves it from the fatal fevers to which the flatter surface and more fervid sun of the lower Mississippi, often subject the denizens of the south."

Father Samuel Mazzuchelli had travelled extensively in Europe and the west and accordingly had some basis for comparison with other regions. "The climate", he asserted, " is much colder than in Europe under the same latitude; from the month of November to the end of March the thermometer generally keeps below the freezing point, and in the depth of winter falls often to twenty or even thirty degrees below in the more northern sections of the country. Snow covers the ground for about three months and the rivers are frozen over so completely as to serve during the winter as the most solid of pavements, not only for men but for draught animals also, so that journeys of hundreds of miles are made upon their frozen waters. The months of June, July and August are quite hot but upon the immensity of the great natural plains, ordinarily even in summer, one enjoys a cool and refreshing breeze."

The Territory of Iowa was a land of great beauty. Albert M. Lea described the general appearance as "one grand rolling prairie, along one side of which flows the mightiest river in the world, and through which numerous navigable streams pursue their devious way towards the ocean." Beautiful rivers and creeks could be found everywhere, many of them fed by lakes.

Not only those who lived in Iowa Territory

sang her praises. "The birth of a Territory and such a Territory, is no ordinary event", announced the Saint Louis *Bulletin*. "It will be the birth of a young giant, which in a few short years will exert a powerful influence in the whole Union — and one whose strength and proportions and beauty will be without a rival."

The economic significance of the Iowa country was recognized by New York and New Orleans, the two great rivals for the trade with the West. A New York legislative committee declared that Westerners "evidently prefer the market on the Atlantic; and they are making prodigious efforts to reach it." The New Orleans *Bee* believed Iowa and Wisconsin would form a mighty addition to the already dominant power of the Mississippi Valley, of which New Orleans "must forever be the mart, and centre of attraction." The editor was not unmindful of the fact that a railroad might some day connect the Mississippi with the Great Lakes, but was certain that the Father of Waters would always "form the main channel of communication of its upper branches with the ocean and with foreign lands."

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

In the Fields

In 1838 the United States was still a nation of farmers. The North and South were divided on the slavery issue. Internal improvements, and the disposition of the public domain were burning sectional issues over which the East and West haggled bitterly. Lured across the Alleghenies by rich, cheap, abundant land, the pioneer agriculturists carved out seven new Western States — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana — during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, sapping the original thirteen States of much of their man power. The admission of Arkansas (1836) and Michigan (1837), followed by the clamor for the division of the Territory of Wisconsin in 1838, only served to heighten the jealousy between the East and the West and accentuate Southern apprehension.

Every effort was made in the East to induce disgruntled farmers to remain at home. In the spring of 1838 the *Yankee Farmer* told of a man in Maine who had raised his wheat at a cost of not more than thirty-five cents a bushel. "Can Farmers raise grain at less expense on the Western Prairies, where it sells at half the price it brings in

Maine?" queried the eastern editor triumphantly. The question was promptly answered. "To be sure we can", replied the Milwaukee *Sentinel*. The western editor believed the "rich and productive" prairies between Michigan and the Missouri River could produce more wheat on a single acre than Maine could on three acres. "Why, we should say it would take more time, hard work and money, to clear off the timber and underbrush from ten of your wild acres in Maine, than to *acquire* a large Farm in Wisconsin, and put a crop in to boot. Humph! we should as soon think of comparing the jungles of Siam with the delta of the Nile as to place the woods of Maine in competition with the prolific Prairies" of Wisconsin and Iowa.

When the new Territory of Iowa was created the press and the people were almost unanimous in their praise of its soil and climate. "Iowa is a great Territory", declared the Davenport *Iowa Sun*. "The agricultural advantages of this country are immense; and lying as it does, for hundreds of miles along the western margin of the majestic Mississippi, its commercial conveniences are certainly surpassed by no interior state in the union. No country is capable of supporting a larger amount of population."

After pointing out that the Territory already had a surprisingly large population, the editor

concluded: "Let our friends in the east, not attempt to dream, that we are here in a wilderness." The Black Hawk Purchase "has much the appearance of an old country. The same amount of *capital* and *labor* that would make a handsome farm in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, or in any of the old thirteen states, in twenty-five years, would make a better and handsomer farm in Iowa in *one-fifth* of that time. This may surprise many farmers who have not seen this country; but it is nevertheless true. Industrious persons who select Iowa as a home, may safely promise themselves the richest, the most abundant rewards for their labor. The *idle* had better keep away."

Cutting Marsh, a missionary among the Stockbridge Indians of Wisconsin, considered the Black Hawk Purchase "most valuable" for "agricultural purposes" and thought much of its fertile soil was "unsurpassed" by any land he had seen east of the Mississippi. Marsh believed the rolling prairies of southern Iowa would "abundantly reward the labors of the husbandman". The soil on the Red Cedar could raise "corn and vegetables in great abundance" with "comparatively little labor". The lower Des Moines Valley seemed to be "formed by nature for agriculture" and would soon "be covered with flocks and herds".

Although Father Mazzuchelli was schooled in the ways of a clergyman, his analysis of the future productivity of the country was not unworthy of an agronomist. "The land of this Territory is very fertile, especially towards the south;" he observed. All kinds of "grain can be cultivated there, domestic animals find rich pasturage for seven months of the year in the vast prairie lands." As a horticulturist, however, he was scarcely entitled to the rôle of a prophet. "But no fruit bearing trees are native there, and those transplanted from other countries rarely come to maturity; the apple is the only fruit that seems to suit the soil and climate of Iowa, especially in the upper part".

Albert M. Lea was particularly interested in the agricultural prospects of the country and made many observations and inquiries concerning it. "The agricultural productions", he recorded, "consist chiefly of maize, wheat, rye, oats, and potatoes. The large white corn of the south may be produced as far north as Rock Island, and yields from fifty to one hundred bushels per acre; but the yellow flint-corn grows well anywhere, and yields from forty to seventy-five bushels per acre; the latter is the more certain crop. Wheat is produced with a facility unknown except in the west. I have known the sod of the prairie to be simply turned over, the seed harrowed in, and thirty bushels per

acre to be harvested. But the usual crop, after the first, is from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre with negligent farming. Oats yield usually from sixty to seventy bushels per acre, and seventy-five bushels have been cut at Du Buque. Potatoes grow abundantly, and are famous throughout the west for their fine quality."

Unfavorable weather, always a hazard for farmers, seriously threatened Iowa crops in 1838. The year began so mildly that one Dubuque farmer was found "prairie breaking" on New Year's Day. Mid-January was likened to "Indian summer", with the Mississippi free of ice. Winter struck like a rapier in February: the wind whistled "rudely and loudly" through the log cabins at Burlington, the Mississippi was soon frozen as "tight as a drumhead", and the weather turned so cold that Burlington thermometers were "all too short". March came in like a lion but went out like the proverbial lamb, steamboat arrivals being recorded at Dubuque before the month closed. The weather was so "mild and balmy" that many planted vegetables, only to have them "nipt" by the chilling April frosts. May was cold and rainy. Bottom lands were flooded. As if in perverse response to the Burlington editor's complaint that there had been no more than a day or so of "warm weather", the month ended with a killing frost.

Farmers gloomily predicted a poor harvest unless June brought warm weather. By mid-June the rains had come in answer to the "prayers of the righteous" and herbage could be seen almost "hopping from the earth."

Extremely warm weather in July proved "favorable for harvesting" around Burlington, and the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* expressed delight with the flattering accounts of crops. In no case were they "less characterized for their excellent quality than for quantity." There would be "enough and to spare" to meet the "vast influx of population" and still allow something for exportation. Wheat was only fair but a large yield of corn and oats was expected and it was generally felt that these would "rarely ever fail" in Iowa. "For potatoes and turnips", the *Gazette* declared, "we will yield to no country on earth. Every species of garden vegetables, suitable to the climate, can, too, be produced of a size and quality and in an abundance, unsurpassed."

A month later, on August 18th, the *Iowa News* reported "very unfavorable" weather for farming. "We understand that considerable quantities of wheat have spoiled in the shock, in consequence of the frequent rains which have taken place since the time of cutting. Corn, which has now come to perfection, cannot ripen fast during damp and

chilly weather, yet should the fall prove dry and warm, the crop will prove very good. Rains, such as we have lately had, are unfrequent in this country. The quantity of hay usually put up will fall short of previous seasons, unless we soon have a change of weather." August showers were followed by a long season of drought.

Despite adverse weather conditions, there were ample evidences of the natural productivity of the Iowa soil. In October the Burlington editor was shown a small quantity of Baden corn which grew ten to fourteen feet high and promised to yield well when properly cultivated. In December a twelve-foot stalk of Baden corn with "*eleven* tolerably sized ears" was brought to the office of the *Iowa Territorial Gazette*. It was taken from a Van Buren County field and the editor was assured that the yield would amount to 150 bushels an acre.

Several remarkable vegetables were exhibited by Iowa farmers. "Beat This!" exclaimed the *Iowa News* on November 17th when a Jackson County farmer produced a cucumber weighing five pounds and three ounces and measuring eighteen inches in length and sixteen inches in circumference. A mellon was raised by N. J. Lymon eight miles from Davenport that was two feet long, three and one-third feet in circumference, and weighed twenty-three pounds. "Here is another specimen

of the productiveness of the soil of Iowa", boasted the *Iowa Sun*. "These elegant lands will soon be all occupied by industrious and enterprising settlers" who would have to "undergo many privations" for a short time but would ultimately surmount all obstacles and be abundantly rewarded.

It was not merely the hope of attracting more immigrants to the Territory of Iowa that caused optimistic crop reports. The pioneers were also doing some wishful thinking. They needed surplus grain to sell for cash with which to pay for their claims. Some of these sturdy farmers had come to the Black Hawk Purchase with the first influx of settlers in 1833; over half had arrived after 1836. They had toiled hard — staking out their claims, clearing the forests, breaking the tough prairie sod, sowing and harvesting their crops, raising their cabins, building sheds, and constructing fences. They had done all this with little cost except their labor. Iowa land was first offered for sale by the government in October, 1838, before some of the settlers had time to accumulate the necessary funds. Small wonder, then, that the farmers were concerned about the crops in 1838. One Burlington merchant offered to pay the highest price for corn and cattle, meeting the farmer at his home before October 19th, or paying him spot cash at the land sales.

Probably the census figures provided the most reliable evidence of the fertility of Iowa's soil, as well as an index of the crops being cultivated. According to the United States census of 1840, the total yield of cereals in Iowa that year was 1,788,051 bushels, divided as follows: 1,406,241 bushels of Indian corn, 154,693 bushels of wheat, 216,385 bushels of oats, 3,792 bushels of rye, 728 bushels of barley, and 6,212 bushels of buckwheat. The potato crop totalled 234,063 bushels. Although the amount of wheat raised was not sufficient to feed the 43,112 inhabitants in 1840, it was estimated that the total cereal production was more than five times as much as was needed. In 1838, with half the population and probably less than half as much land under cultivation, production must have been fifty per cent less than the total two years later. This is all the more likely because of the late spring and wet August in 1838.

The Territory of Iowa had also forged ahead in livestock. The census of 1840 enumerated 10,794 horses and mules, 38,049 cattle, 15,354 sheep, and 104,899 swine. This was probably a little more than twice as many as in 1838. It is interesting to note that the total number of livestock was practically double the census figures for the Territory of Wisconsin.

Newspaper editors filled their columns with ad-

vice for improving the methods of agriculture. Thus, farmers were advised to boil potatoes before feeding them to stock. This was alleged to increase the nutrition so that only half the quantity would be needed. An excerpt from the *Yankee Farmer* printed in February at Burlington maintained that timber cut during the winter would last longer. When a farmer near Dubuque caught and raised a young elk the local editor suggested that persons might make it a "profitable business" to catch elk calves in the spring and train them to maturity, when "a swifter sleigh ride could not be had in Lapland" than with an elk-drawn sled on the Mississippi.

The methods of agriculture in 1838 were not much improved over those practiced by the American colonists on the Atlantic seaboard two centuries before the Territory of Iowa was created. The reaper had been invented but was not yet being manufactured. A 160-acre farm could be staked out and purchased for $1.25 an acre: a century later the average value of land was around $88 an acre. In 1838 the log cabin was raised in the Black Hawk Purchase at virtually no cost save the labor of the pioneer and his neighbors. In 1930 the average farm dwelling in Davis County cost $1676 while that in Scott County cost $3266. Comparison of the price of farm implements then

and now is indicated by the disparity in cost of a breaking plow and a tractor. Although the prices farmers received for their products during the 1830's were almost the same as those received a century later, the difference in the total value of production was tremendous. In 1840 the value of poultry of all kinds was $16,529. In 1936 Iowa poultry was worth $26,841,552, while eggs added $40,205,502 more to the total value of farm products which amounted to $537,105,540. The most optimistic editor or farmer of 1838 could scarcely have conceived the changes which a century was to bring in agriculture.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

A Commonplace Calendar

With the birth of the Territory of Iowa came the harvest season when the fields fulfilled their early promise, alleviating the dread of impending land sales and substantiating the prophecies of splendid destiny.

Sunday, July 1. Somebody stole a "Rifle Gun, with percussion lock, double trigger," and a "stock well finished with brass" from the cabin of Nicholas McCormick near Peru. ∫ A "large sorrel mare" strayed from the premises of J. S. Kirkpatrick near Bellevue.

Monday, July 2. The county commissioners met at the courthouse in Dubuque at 10 A. M.

Tuesday, July 3. A raft containing 100,000 feet of pine plank arrived at Fort Madison from the Chippewa country.

Wednesday, July 4. The birthday of the Territory of Iowa and the sixty-second anniversary of the independence of the nation were celebrated with patriotic ceremonies. At Fort Madison old Chief Black Hawk participated in the festivities. "A few winters ago I was fighting against you", he said. "I did wrong, perhaps, but that is past — it is buried — let it be forgotten." Temperance

prevailed. Even in Dubuque "the immoral practice of drinking spirits to excess was unknown."

Thursday, July 5. Charles Corkery, the proprietor of the Shakespeare House in Dubuque, announced that some "lazy, louzy, lounging loafer" had better stop taking the newspapers from the public reading desk. The "pilfering puppy who stole the New Orleans Picayune on last Thursday" was being watched.

Friday, July 6. The United States government ordered all squatters to prove their preëmption rights to claims in certain Iowa townships which would be sold in November.

Saturday, July 7. President Van Buren, reposing "special trust and confidence in the Integrity and Abilities" of Robert Lucas, appointed him Governor of the Territory of Iowa. ∫ Major W. S. Anderson resigned from the Iowa militia. ∫ For lack of paper the Burlington *Gazette* was not published.

Sunday, July 8. Dr. Campbell Gilmore and Miss Martha Taylor were married at West Point in Lee County. ∫ Augustus Pasquer died in Dubuque.

Monday, July 9. Before a large meeting at sunset in front of the courthouse in Dubuque, M. M. McCarver and W. W. Coriell denied charges of malfeasance in office and won a vote of confidence.

Tuesday, July 10. At Burlington "all the furniture belonging to the Territory of Wisconsin, consisting of Desks, Tables, chairs, stoves, etc. etc" was sold at 3 P. M. in front of Webber & Remey's store. ∫ Henry G. Moore opened a school for youth "at the front room of his residence". ∫ Jesse B. Browne moved the Fort Madison post office to the new building on Front Street one door east of the boarding house kept by the widow of Nathaniel Knapp. ∫ Since the game of nine pins "is productive of great waste of time, and leads to habits of idleness and dissipation, and is attended with great noise and disturbance" it was prohibited in Fort Madison. ∫ Peter V. Lorimier, aged three, died at Dubuque.

Wednesday, July 11. In spite of the low water, which made the passage of the Des Moines Rapids difficult, the steamboats *Relief* and *Demoine* reached Fort Madison.

Thursday, July 12. The mid-day sun was extremely warm.

Friday, July 13. David Rorer and W. Henry Starr formed a law partnership in Burlington. All business "adverse to each other" was finished separately. ∫ A calfskin pocketbook containing twenty five-dollar bills of Alabama money was lost near Fort Madison.

Saturday, July 14. In step with political events

James Clarke changed the name of his newspaper to the *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser*. ∫ David Rorer announced his candidacy for the office of Delegate to Congress and, with Cyrus S. Jacobs, addressed "a large and respectable meeting" of Taney Town prairie voters at the house of McGuffee. ∫ A citizen declared that the Port of Dubuque ought to be cleared so that the current of the river would wash the shore and carry away the "filth that at present causes the water to taste like a bitter stew."

Sunday, July 15. Hot and dry. Yet "all kinds of grain and vegetables have grown very well this season, and in much greater abundance than that of any previous one."

Monday, July 16. Contrary to rumor there was no scourge of smallpox in Burlington. A few mild "cases of *rarcoloid*" had occurred but the disease was not prevalent. ∫ In a signed newspaper statement C. S. Jacobs called James G. Edwards a "miserable apology for a man", a "canting hypocrite and lying varlet", and a "base liar and an infamous scoundrel and coward", which was construed to be for the purpose of provoking a duel.

Tuesday, July 17. H. E. Dickinson and Thomas Hedge dissolved partnership in the dry goods business. ∫ The dry weather was favorable for harvesting, though the thermometer regis-

tered nearly 100° in the shade at Dubuque. ∫ Robert Lucas accepted the Governorship of Iowa.

Wednesday, July 18. Charles Runnels, a recent immigrant from Warren, New Hampshire, died of a disease contracted on the journey. ∫ "Silex" favored Rorer for Congress instead of Chapman because Rorer proposed to ask Congress for funds to build colleges while Chapman was alleged to be opposed to endowing high schools.

Thursday, July 19. Peter H. Engle made a good impression on a large number of voters whom he addressed at Fort Madison. ∫ The river was rising at the rate of a foot a day at Dubuque.

Friday, July 20. Secretary William B. Conway arrived at Burlington aboard the *Ariel*. ∫ Dr. James Davis, gentlemanly and fluent, asked Fort Madison voters to send him to Congress.

Saturday, July 21. Readers of the Burlington *Gazette* learned that "a few drops of the Sweet Spirits of Nitre" would effectually banish bedbugs. ∫ The Dubuque *Iowa News* could not print several advertisements because the persons were "unknown" and the copy was not accompanied by cash. ∫ Dr. Lurton had just received a supply of fresh "Vaccine Matter". ∫ Warner Lewis was "respectfully requested to become a candidate for the next Legislative Council" and to feel confident of liberal support from Dubuque.

Sunday, July 22. Forty passengers adopted resolutions praising the captain and crew of the *Demoine* for courteous treatment, punctuality, and good meals on the trip up from Saint Louis.

Monday, July 23. Coroner Thomas E. Easton held an inquest on the body of a man found in the river and decided that he had died from "fractures of the skull in manner unknown." ∫ Charles Mason took the oath of office as Chief Justice.

Tuesday, July 24. Rattlesnakes were plentiful.

Wednesday, July 25. Secretary Conway issued a proclamation establishing the judicial districts, assigning the judges, and fixing the terms of court. ∫ Citizens of Clayton County met at the home of Henry Holtzbecker to nominate candidates. ∫ James Richey hoped to be elected to the Legislative Assembly on the platform of locating the county seat of Henry County on the Skunk River and paying for the public buildings by selling lots. ∫ James G. Edwards stated publicly that he abhorred duelling "and could not by any means be led into one" with Jacobs.

Thursday, July 26. The infant son of J. B. Newhall died. ∫ During a "severe thunder storm" a stable in Dubuque was struck by lightning but the horses were not injured.

Friday, July 27. The river at Burlington rose "nearly four feet within a day or two".

Saturday, July 28. At Dubuque the river, which had been ten feet above low water mark, highest for many years, began to recede. ∫ Baptiste Lapage had forty barrels of "first rate Rectified Whiskey" for sale. ∫ P. Samuel offered to sell his farm on the north fork of the Little Maquoketa. Sixty acres were fenced with stake and rider and thirty acres were under cultivation. ∫ L. W. Babbitt opened a gunsmith shop in Burlington where he was ready "on short notice" to make "Plain or FANCY RIFLES and Fowling guns", prison and common door locks, printers chases, and county seals.

Sunday, July 29. Iowa subscribers read De Tocqueville's impressions of American democracy in the July number of the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*.

Monday, July 30. Joseph T. Fales held probate court at his office in Dubuque. ∫ Rorer told voters in Dubuque that he thought the Territorial legislature ought to locate the capital, but Chapman hinted that he would use his influence to have Congress name a central point.

Tuesday, July 31. Politicians hoped Governor Lucas would come soon and apportion representation in the Legislature.

JOHN ELY BRIGGS

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY